

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 34**

(Doc. No. 20024sd07.doc)

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| TO: | The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee | | |
| FROM: | Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board | | |
| ANALYSTS: | Rodney Grizzle and Allan Kincaid | | |
| DATE: | January 31, 2007 | SBD: | 2007035 |

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| AUTHOR: | Senator Ford | PRIMARY CODE CITE: | Joint Resolution |
| SUBJECT: | Constitutional Amendment - Election of Judges | | |

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 34 would amend Section 2, Title V of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, 1895, by increasing the number of State Supreme Court Justices from Five (5) to Seven (7). This Bill also amends Sections 3, 8 and 13 of Title V, relating to the election of the members to the State Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Circuit Courts, by allowing the associate justices and appeals judges to be elected by popular vote from congressional districts, while the circuit court judges would be elected from the state senatorial districts. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court would be elected by a state wide popular vote.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

The Election Commission

The Agency indicates there will be no fiscal impact on the General Fund of the State or on Federal/other funds. While there is a cost associated with printing a referendum ballot, the funding for statewide elections is sufficient to cover this cost

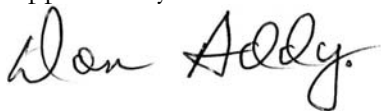
Judicial Department

There will be an impact on the Department if the number of Supreme Court Judges is increased by two members. The impact on the General Fund of the State for two additional Judges and corresponding staff is an estimated \$768,570 in personal services and associated operating expenses. Each judge has an administrative assistant and two law clerks. Non-recurring costs of \$100,360 are estimated for automation and furniture. This Bill may also require renovations to the Supreme Court Building to add office space for the additional Associate Justices and their staff.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget